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SEPTEMBER 4.

The President, Dr. **Ruschenberger**, in the chair.

Fifteen members present.

On the Bed-bug and its Allies.—Prof. **Leidy** remarked that it was commonly supposed that the swallow, pigeon, and bat were infested with the bed-bug, and that those animals introduced the insect into houses. Packard (Guide to Study of Insects, 551) observes that the bed-bug "lives as a parasite on the domestic birds;" and adds that a gentleman informed him "that he has found a nest of swallows on a court-house in Iowa swarming with bed-bugs." Westwood (Introd. ii. 475, note,) says it is certain that bed-bugs "swarm in the American timber employed in the construction of new houses." "In the western part of our country," continued Prof. L., "I frequently heard that bed-bugs were to be found at any time beneath the bark of the cottonwood and the pine. In these positions I never found one, nor have I ever found the insect except in the too familiar proximity of man. Recently, when in the West, while watching some cliff swallows passing in and out of their retort-shaped mud nests, built under the eaves of a house, I was told that these nests swarmed with bed-bugs, and that usually people would not allow the birds to build in such places, because they introduced bed-bugs into the houses. Having collected a number of the bugs, as well as others from the interior of the house, specimens of both of which are submitted to the examination of the members, I found that while the latter are true bed-bugs, *Cimex lectularius*, the former are of a different species, the *C. hirundinis*. The bugs infesting the bat and pigeon have likewise been recognized as a peculiar species, with the name of *C. pipistrelli*, and *C. columbarius*." Prof. L. further noticed that the habit of the *C. hirundinis* was similar to that of *C. lectularius* in the circumstance that the bugs during the daytime would secrete themselves in crevices of the boards away from the nests. After sunset he had observed the bugs leave their hiding-places and make their way to the nests. From these observations it would appear as if the peculiar bugs of the animals mentioned did not reciprocally infest their hosts.

On the Growth of Cocculus Indicus.—Mr. **Ryder** remarked that the termini of the branches of *Cocculus indicus*, as observed in the Horticultural Hall in Fairmount Park, were coiled to the left about objects that came within reach. These terminal coils, which simulated tendrils in form, would, if straightened out, measure 6 to 8 inches in length. The buds upon them appeared to be aborted or rudimentary, and as soon as the coil was securely wound round its object of support, growth in a longitudinal direction in the branch in question seemed to cease; but below the proximal part of the coil, or that nearest the root, one of the fully developed buds would break and continue the ascending axis, which, when it had attained a length of 1 or 2 feet, would coil its terminus, and stop growing lengthwise as the branch had done from which it grew. This process seemed to be repeated indefinitely. The plant might be called a terminal twiner. Other menispermaceous plants seemed to have a similar tendency, though not so marked, and some were not very different in habit from ordinary twiners, as, for example, *Menispermum canadensis.*

SEPTEMBER 11.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-three members present.

A paper entitled "On a New Species of Helix from Texas," by Wm. G. Mazyck, was presented for publication.

SEPTEMBER 18.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-seven members present.

The death of H. E. Van Rijgersma, a Correspondent of the Academy, was announced.

On the Distribution of Plants.—**ISAAC C. MARTINDALE** exhibited specimens of *Phallus*, and stated that he had noticed its reappearance in the yard attached to his dwelling for four years. Its development was very rapid; at the time it was first noticed this year it presented the appearance of a hen's egg with about one-third of the surface protruding from the ground; within twenty-four hours it had more than doubled in size, and showed some signs of an opening at the upper end; about six hours later the stipe had forced its way out to the extent of nearly six inches. Although so offensive in odor, it attracted large numbers of flies, from twenty to thirty being on it at one time. He stated, as a singular fact, that this species reappeared year after year in a space not more than three feet in diameter; and although plants of this class produce an immense amount of spores, not more than four specimens of this species had been noticed near the locality on any occasion.

In connection with the subject, Mr. Martindale further stated that probably no class of plants have a greater amount of pollen